
The Suffield Police Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Suffield Police Departments conference room. These meetings are open to the public and the public is welcome to attend and voice their concerns and support to those who have been elected to serve in the capacity of a commissioner.

The Suffield Police Commission operates and is regulated by various State Statutes that are provided for reference.

Sec. 7-274. Establishment of town police commissions. Any town may, by ordinance, establish a board of police commissioners to be elected, in accordance with the provisions of section 9-201 or to be appointed by the council or board of directors of a town, the common council or other body empowered to make ordinances of a city, the board of burgesses of a borough or the board of selectmen of a town not having a council or board of directors, provided in a town having both a board of selectmen and a representative town meeting such ordinance may designate the representative town meeting as the appointing authority, for the purpose of organizing and maintaining a police department in such town. Such board shall consist of three, five or seven electors, all of whom shall be resident taxpayers of such town. Such commissioners shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties and shall serve without compensation, but their actual expenses and disbursements incurred in the performance of their duties shall be paid from the town treasury.

(1949 Rev., S. 656; 1953, S. 260d; 1957, P.A. 13, S. 19; P.A. 73-138, S. 1, 2; P.A. 74-209.)

History: P.A. 73-138 permitted board to be appointed as well as elected; P.A. 74-209 clarified appointment provisions by listing specific appointing authorities.

Cited. 144 C. 21, 27. Cited. 171 C. 553, 563.

Upon establishment of board by town meeting, no vacancy exists when members are to be elected at the "next town election". 19 CS 316. Cited. 31 CS 145. Cited. 38 CS 419-421.

Sec. 7-275. Meetings of commissioners. Vacancies. The board of police commissioners shall elect one of its number to be chairman and one member to be clerk and shall hold regular meetings and keep records of the same. Meetings shall be held upon the call of the chairman or of a majority of the members of the board. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. In the event of any vacancy upon the board, the board of selectmen shall have authority by majority vote to fill such vacancy until the next town election, at which election a member shall be elected for the unexpired portion of the term.

(1949 Rev., S. 658; 1953, S. 261d.)

See Sec. 9-1 for applicable definitions.

Cited. 144 C. 27.

Cited. 19 CS 316.

Subsec. (6):

Cited. 193 C. 59, 68.

Sec. 7-276. Powers of commissioners. Such boards shall have all of the powers given by the general statutes to boards of police commissioners, shall have general management and supervision of the police department of such town and of the property and equipment used in connection therewith, shall make all needful regulations for the government thereof not contrary to law and may prescribe suitable penalties for the violation of any such regulation, including suspension or removal from office of any officer or member of such police department. Such board shall have the sole power of appointment, promotion and removal of the officers and members of such police department, under such regulations as it adopts for the purpose, and such appointees shall hold office during good behavior and until removed for cause upon written charges and after hearing. The members of such police department shall have all such authority with respect to the service of criminal process and the enforcement of the criminal laws as is vested by the general statutes in police officers and constables.

(1949 Rev., S. 659.)

See Sec. 9-1 for applicable definitions. Cited. 144 C. 27. Cited. 19 CS 316. Subsec. (6): Cited. 193 C. 59, 68.

Cited. 171 C. 553, 561. Cited. 217 C. 73, 90. Cited. 227 C. 363, 371, 375. Cited. 229 C. 703, 707, 713. Statutory policy committing selection, direction and dismissal of police officers to town is not inconsistent with grievance procedure in collective bargaining agreement covering discipline of police officers. 255 C. 800.

Cited. 41 CA 649, 658.

Offices of police commissioner and chief of police are incompatible and, upon acceptance of one, other office is vacated. 21 CS 294. A de novo hearing on the merits does not contravene statute since only the power of appointment, promotion and removal of police officers is exclusively reserved to the commissioners. 31 CS 87. Cited. 31 CS 145.